



# NPS Social Science Program

## Graduate Student Internships

### Introduction

Semester-long graduate student internships in Washington, DC are available with one of the nation's premier land management agencies – the National Park Service (NPS). The mission of the NPS is to preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of present and future generations. Understanding the relationship between people and parks is critical for protecting valuable resources while providing for public enjoyment.

The National Park Service Social Science Program plays a critical role in achieving the NPS mission by conducting and promoting state-of-the-art research relevant to NPS management. The National Park Service Social Science Program focuses on economics, geography, psychology, political science, sociology, and interdisciplinary studies.

As a graduate student intern with the National Park Service Social Science Program, you will work with the Visiting Chief Social Scientist and other program staff on research and technical assistance projects that deliver usable knowledge to NPS managers and the public. You can learn first-hand how the NPS operates and carries out its mission, gain practical experience, and develop valuable job skills.

The internships are located in Washington, DC. Travel expenses to and from Washington, DC will be paid (within the U.S. only), in addition to a stipend of approximately \$1,200 per month.

### NPS Social Science Program Activities

The NPS Social Science Program is engaged in many activities, including:

- Overseeing projects related to high priority national needs for social science research (such as the social aspects of ecosystem management, issues related to gateway communities, trends in tourism and recreation, and so forth).
- Conducting social science needs assessments for national parks and NPS programs.
- Managing the Canon National Parks Science Scholars Program.
- Producing the *Social Science Research Review Series*—individual reviews of social science literature on issues critical to NPS managers.
- Developing and maintaining the NPS Social Science Program's web site.
- Supporting the NPS Urban Recreation Research Center.
- Conducting visitor surveys and other studies in units of the National Park System.



## Previous Graduate Student Intern Projects

As part of their internship, graduate students conduct a major project of benefit to NPS managers. Examples of past graduate student intern projects include:

- Developing formal policies for the NPS Social Science Program.
- Preparing *An Administrative Atlas for National Park Service Ecosystem Management*.
- Creating an action plan for the *Sabbatical in the Parks Program*.
- Preparing the document *Gateway Opportunities: A Guide to Federal Programs for Rural Gateway Communities*.
- Working with the U.S. – South Africa Binational Commission to prepare a proposal for *An Experimental Water and Energy Conservation Project at the U.S. National Park Service Albright Training Center*.

## Internship Requirements

Applicants should be:

- currently enrolled in a relevant graduate program or planning to attend graduate school,
- available Spring, Summer, or Fall Semesters for 40 hours per week (start and end dates are flexible),
- willing to work in Washington, DC,
- able to work creatively and independently, and
- able to interact comfortably and professionally (in person, on the phone, and in writing) with social scientists and NPS managers in Washington, DC and around the country.

## Application Information

- To apply, mail a resume and cover letter describing your interests and availability to the address below.
- Include the names of three references who can speak to your academic and work experience.

## Application Deadlines

- Spring Internship, 30 November
- Summer Internship, 1 March
- Fall Internship, 15 June

## Contact

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